

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Original): A method of manufacturing elements of relatively small size, especially such as planchettes, comprising the following steps:

- a wound sheet is unwound, then
- optionally, this sheet is printed at least partly on at least one side and then
- the sheet is cut deeply “right through” along a succession of at least two cutting patterns that intersect so as to constitute a resulting pattern that will form a detached element constituting the element of relatively small size, this cutting operation taking place by means of a succession of synchronized cutting cylinders carrying one of the cutting patterns respectively, anvil cylinders being interposed between these cutting cylinders, the sheet passing between all these cylinders and
- the detached elements that form said elements of relatively small size are recovered.

2. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the steps are carried out in line.

3. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is carried out at a speed of between 20 and 150 m/min.

4. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in~~
~~that~~ claim 1, wherein said sheet is a sheet of paper, a sheet of nonwoven or a sheet of plastic, or a
complex of these materials.

5. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in~~
~~that~~ claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed by flexography.

6. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in~~
~~that~~ claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed in an amount of 1 to 10 g/m² per side, preferably between
2 and 5 g/m² per side.

7. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in~~
~~that~~ claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed on only one side.

8. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in~~
~~that~~ claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed on both its sides in succession by front/back registration,
in particular by turning the sheet over or by reversing the rotation of a printing unit.

9. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in~~
~~that~~ claim 1, wherein said sheet has a thickness of between about 5 and 110 μ m.

10. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the detached elements are recovered by stripping, in particular using a peel bar and suction.

11. (Currently amended): The manufacturing method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the largest dimension of the detached element is between 0.5 and 6 mm, preferably between 1 and 4 mm.

12. (Currently amended): A method of cutting out elements of relatively small size, especially such as planchettes, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, starting from a sheet, said sheet is cut deeply “right through”, continuously, along a succession of at least two cutting patterns that intersect so as to constitute a resulting pattern that will form a detached element constituting the element of relatively small size, this cutting operation taking place using a succession of synchronized cutting cylinders carrying one of the cutting patterns respectively, anvil cylinders being interposed between these cutting cylinders.

13. (Currently amended): A device for cutting out elements of relatively small size, especially such as planchettes, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it comprises a rotary cutting device comprising a succession of synchronized cutting cylinders having respective cutting threads, anvil cylinders being interposed between these cutting cylinders, the cutting threads on the cylinders

being supplemented so as to form an entire figure when the cutting cylinders rotate in a synchronized manner and when suitably adjusted.

14. (Currently amended): The cutting device as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each cutting cylinder is a magnetic cylinder covered with a magnetizable flexible plate retained by demagnetization forces, especially made of steel, bearing the cutting threads, which are electrochemically etched.

15. (Currently amended): The cutting device as claimed in ~~either of claims 13 and 14,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 14, wherein it includes a base anvil cylinder.

16. (Currently amended): A device for manufacturing elements of relatively small size, especially such as planchettes, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it includes a reel holder, a printing device, with at least one printing unit, and a cutting device described in claim[s] 13 [[to 15]].

17. (Currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it includes a printing device having at least two printing units with a set of bars for turning the sheet over between the units.

18. (Currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it includes a printing unit having at least two printing units with a device for reversing the rotation of one of the printing units.

19. (Currently amended): The manufacturing device as claimed in ~~one of claims 16 to 18,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 16, wherein it includes, after the cutting device, a stripping device, in particular one using a peel bar and suction.

20. (Currently amended): The manufacturing device as claimed in ~~one of claims 16 to 19,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 16, wherein it includes an antistatic treatment device.

21. (Currently amended): A security element of relatively small size, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is obtained using the manufacturing and/or cutting methods described in ~~one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1 and in that it includes identification patterns observable to the naked eye.

22. (Currently amended): The security element as claimed in claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it includes patterns chosen from patterns that are visible in natural light, visible under UV light, luminescent patterns, particularly fluorescent or phosphorescent patterns, which are detectable by near or intermediate infrared radiation, thermochromic patterns, piezochromic patterns, patterns based on DNA tracers, patterns that are optically variable, especially iridescent

or based on liquid crystals or diffraction gratings or moiré patterns or holograms, electromagnetic patterns, or combinations thereof.

23. (Currently amended): The security element as claimed in ~~either of claims 21 and 22,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 21, wherein it includes, beneath or alongside said patterns, printing of
electromagnetic, especially magnetic, character and in particular continuous tracks or codes in the
form of magnetic bits.

24. (Currently amended): The security element as claimed in ~~one of claims 20 to 23,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 21, wherein it includes chemical authentication reactants or reactants
that reveal a specific event.

25. (Currently amended): A security element of relatively small size, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein it is obtained using the manufacturing and/or cutting methods described in ~~one of claims~~
~~1 to 12 or as claimed in one of claims 20 to 24~~ claim 1, and ~~in that~~ wherein the shape of said
element is a security characteristic.

26. (Currently amended): A security sheet comprising a fibrous substrate which includes
at least one security element of relatively small size obtained using the manufacturing and/or
cutting methods described in ~~one of claims 1 to 12 or as described in one of claims 21 to 25~~ claim
1.

27. (Currently amended): A decorative sheet comprising a fibrous substrate, which includes at least one decorative element of relatively small size obtained using the manufacturing and/or cutting methods described in ~~one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

28. (Original): A security document comprising, as base, a sheet as claimed in claim 26.

29. (Currently amended): A package comprising a sheet as claimed in claim 26 [[or 27]].

30. (New): A security element as claimed in claim 21, wherein the shape of said element is a security characteristic.

31. (New): A security sheet comprising a fibrous substrate which includes at least one security element as described in claim 21.